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A NEW STAR IS BORN?
May we present: a completely new technology for RFID
antennas, designed to meet the most varied needs.

MANY BENEFITS
Efficient insulation keeps you warm in cold weather,
and is good for your wallet and the environment too.

HEADING FOR THE TOP
The aim of the Technical Products division is to be
world leader in intelligent multilayer products.

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Our vision at Walki is to be the leading source of innovative
and sustainable technical laminates and protective packaging
solutions. This means that we must take a broad and in-depth
approach to environmental considerations. We try to ensure that
these considerations permeate everything we do, from our raw
materials and energy use to our production processes and end
products.

Sustainability is also the central theme of the magazine, which
focuses on a number of interesting developments. You can
discover how we are helping to develop efficient insulation, which
is needed because much of the energy consumed in the Western
world is used to heat or cool buildings. Our own unique production
process for RFID antennas uses paper as the raw material—a
good example of how the right technology can bring benefits
for the environment. Another example is our investment in
technology for producing high barrier multilayer products. These
products can be used for, for example, preventing chemicals from
penetrating packaging and contaminating the contents.

To enable our customers to measure their own carbon footprint,
we have developed a calculator which shows the footprint of
these products. Of course, it also provides us with valuable
information about our own processes and highlights areas for
improvement. The same is true of our first corporate social
responsibility (CSR) report, which also focuses on sustainability.
Sustainability forms the basis for everything that Walki does,
since we specialise in barriers and materials with protective
functions which ensure that the content of the packaging, often
something as important as food, is not spoiled. As innovation is
our guiding principle, we have every opportunity to help shape the
sustainable solutions of the future.

I hope you enjoy reading the magazine!

Mats Holti
Vice President,
Technology & Innovations
KEEP THE HEAT IN

A bitterly cold February with –25°C on the thermometer. Meanwhile, energy prices and taxes continue to rise across Europe and interest in energy efficiency has never been higher.

The inhabitants of this house don’t have to worry about the cold, as it’s built with polyurethane insulation, combined with Walki’s facing materials for insulation, with exceptionally high energy efficiency and durability.
Up to 40% of the industrialised world’s energy use goes on the energy consumption of buildings. With rising energy prices and more focus on sustainable use of resources, better insulation plays a key role in moving towards increased sustainability.

The times when heating or cooling your home your home to a comfortable temperature without having to think about the consequences are gone. National and international legislation and agreements are aimed at energy savings, and are supported by the market price of energy. That’s why insulation is one of the most interesting issues in the building market. For many years Walki has been producing facing materials for polyurethane insulation – one of the most effective insulation materials known.

"Over the last five years, sales have risen dramatically and we think this will continue. For example, legislation in England and Ireland now requires both new and renovated buildings to be insulated, so more insulation is being sold than ever before. In other parts of Europe, insulation has also become a more important means of saving energy," says Hannu Nieminen, Product Line Manager, Construction, at Walki.

WALKI’S FACING MATERIAL is a multi-layer laminate, which when combined with polyurethane achieves high insulation efficiency without having to use thick insulating layers.

"That’s why it is ideal for insulating older buildings where there isn’t much space in walls and roofs for thick layers. Good insulation properties can still be achieved," says Tommi Lehikoinen, Development Manager, Construction, at Walki.

Brick houses in particular are expensive to insulate if you cannot find a thin material which fits in to the original structure. But polyurethane also works well with new buildings. The builder saves materials and floor space using effective, thin insulation.

WALKI COMBINES aluminium and paper in its facing layer, as aluminium gives excellent low emissions thanks to it reflecting the heat back into the building in all joints and vents.

"The material is also very diffusion-tight, which means that polyurethane insulation keeps its insulation effect for longer, as the insulation properties cannot ‘escape’ from the material," says Lehikoinen.

It also gives a positive environmental effect in the form of long lifespan for the building.

WALKI HAS ENJOYED a long association with SPU, a Finnish manufacturer of insulation material, which is sold in the Nordic, Baltic and Russian markets. SPU supplies the material for industrial buildings, sports halls, public buildings, multi-storey buildings and private housing.

"Polyurethane has been popular for low and passive energy buildings for years, as its insulation layer is so much thinner, but we have noticed far more private house builders are also choosing polyurethane," says Janne Jormalainen, Chairman of the Board at SPU.

At this time, SPU is working on multi-storey buildings in the Finnish town of Kuopio, which will be the first in the country to fulfil the EU’s 20-20-20 package, which calls for an increase in energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 20% by 2020.

"Energy efficient thinking within all forms of building is here to stay, as we will never again see such low energy prices as we have had past," says Jormalainen.
FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SELECTED TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS, INTRODUCING IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE VALUE CHAIN AND FINDING SMARTER WAYS OF WORKING. THESE ARE SOME OF THE FOCUS AREAS WHICH WALKI TECHNICAL PRODUCTS IS WORKING ON TO ACHIEVE ITS GOAL OF BECOMING WORLD LEADER IN INTELLIGENT MULTILAYER MATERIALS.

Walki has developed a new strategy that will enable it to fully exploit the potential of its Technical Products business area. “Technical Products is an important area for Walki. It has high growth potential and is a one of the cornerstones of our brand identity,” says Tuomo Wall, Vice President Sales & Marketing, Technical Products.

The division’s growth potential is the result of Walki’s broad knowledge of intelligent multilayer laminates, combined with sustainable materials. The goal is to become the world’s leading producer by 2020. “We are already number one in many parts of Europe, but we want to extend this to other regions,” says Wall.

As part of its strategy process, Walki identified a number of key aspects of its products and working methods which will help the company to achieve its goal. One area that Walki is already working on is its service package to customers.

“One area that Walki is already working on is its service package to customers. “To further enhance our ability to deliver reliable, consistent quality products, we launched an ‘On Time, In Full’ project to look at all elements that influence how we fulfill our obligations to customers. The result has been improvement in the way we service customers and our marketplace will see clear benefit from the actions taken,” explains Wall.

The growing global demand for energy efficiency, renewable materials and recyclability puts Walki at an advantage, because many of its paper-based products follow the company’s guiding principle: ‘maximum protection with minimum use of materials’. The company also plans to further exploit its extensive experience of producing intelligent materials which create added value for the products they form part of.

“We want to make better use of our knowledge and this is also part of our strategy. We aim to play a more active role, by taking the initiative and proposing solutions which will benefit our customers and end-users,” explains Wall.

WALKI HAS SET AMBITIOUS GOALS for its Technical Products division, but Tuomo Wall believes it has the right tools to achieve them. Walki’s leading technical position, with regard to both its staff and its machinery, puts it in a sound footing.

“We will also be focusing on understanding the entire chain around our products and playing an active role,” says Wall.

One step in this direction is the appointment of new product managers who are global experts in their areas and will forge a strong link between production and sales.

“Our aim is to be a smart, flexible part of the delivery chain, with clearly defined systems and a strong customer focus,” explains Wall. Internally it is important for Walki to ensure that its employees feel empowered to take a positive approach to change and development.

“Change is rarely simple, but if our staff feels that they are involved and can influence the results, it will be a positive process. We want to strengthen our ‘can-do’ culture, both internally and externally, and encourage our people to use their initiative and be committed to making working with Walki a positive experience” says Wall.

Sustainable materials, extrusion and lamination, combined with intelligent multilayer laminates within the next few years,” explains Wall.

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FOOD AND OTHER SENSITIVE PRODUCTS NEED EFFECTIVE PROTECTION TO WITHSTAND THE HAZARDS THAT THEY ARE EXPOSED TO DURING TRANSPORT AND STORAGE. WALKI HAS DEVELOPED A BARRIER MATERIAL MADE OF UP TO FIVE PROTECTIVE LAYERS WHICH WILL KEEP FOOD FRESH AND FREE FROM CHEMICALS.

Walki is investing in co-extrusion technology to produce new barrier materials which protect the contents of cartonboard packaging from harmful substances. The investment will complete extension line 1 in Walki’s Steinfurt plant. The existing mono-extruder can only apply one layer, while the new co-extruder can create a multi-layer film of up to five layers using three different polymers.

“This investment is in line with our plans to keep improving the Steinfurt plant. It will allow us to meet our customers’ needs for barrier packaging as effectively and innovatively as possible,” says Wolfgang Thissen, Vice President and General Manager responsible for Walki’s Consumer Boardbusiness. The installation will take place during the spring of 2011 and the co-extrusion line will be ready for full-scale use by late summer.

“We can bring the new line into operation while we deliver our existing orders. In August, which is a quiet time, we will get the machine up and running ready for autumn,” says Wolfgang Thissen. The new co-extrusion line is based on the latest technology, increases the capacity of the Steinfurt plant by 20 percent and is wider than previously to fit with the Marquip/WardUnited Steinfrie sheeter which came into operation in Steinfurt in January 2010.

“Once completed, the new investment will allow Walki to offer co-extruded barrier materials, providing our customers with the opportunity to produce higher performance barrier packaging than today.” Wolfgang Thissen believes that the market for functional packaging is growing, not least in the food industry.

“The lacquer also contains no monomers, which is a major bonus, because they can be harmful to health during the production process,” says Mats Heltt, Vice President, Technology & Innovations. The plant in Pietarsaari is the first in the Walki Group to install the machinery needed to apply the lacquer. The factory in Valkeakoski will follow later this year.

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CHECKING A PRODUCT’S CARBON FOOTPRINT

Now it is possible to calculate the carbon footprint of any product created by Walki, since the company has developed its own measuring tool. The tool is based on the British Standards (BSI) and the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) standard.

Add together the CO₂ emissions from raw materials, transport and Walki’s own production processes, including energy use, and the result is the carbon footprint of Walki’s products, expressed in kilograms CO₂ per kilogram produced material. Last year, the company began using its own calculator.

“The calculator is a service we offer customers who need information about the CO₂ emissions of our materials, so that they can calculate the carbon footprint of their own products,” says Rune Skåtar, Director, Development & Innovations at Walki.

Customers regularly ask about the carbon footprint of Walki’s products and the calculator enables the company to give a quick response. It is also important for Walki’s internal use. “Bringing together a number of factors in this way gives us a good indication of where there is room for improvement in our own processes and the way we use materials. This helps us to make the right choices in each situation,” explains Rune Skåtar.

All Walki’s products can be checked in the calculator, but some plants are not yet included in the system. The factories in Finland, Germany, England and Sweden are already covered and every effort is being made to integrate the plants in Poland and China.

Research progress: PLASTIC RECYCLING

It has been possible to separate plastic from raw materials, transport and its own production processes for all Walki’s products.

The new carbon footprint calculator gives an opportunity to check the CO₂ emissions from raw materials, transport and its own production processes for all Walki’s products.

The calculated carbon footprint of Walki’s products includes the carbon footprint of Walki’s own production processes, including energy use, and the result is the carbon footprint of Walki’s products, expressed in kilograms CO₂ per kilogram produced material. Last year, the company began using its own calculator.

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Carbon Calculator

HiPerPol

With the right solvent, plastic can be separated from various materials resulting in a clean polymer that is usable for new products.

Walki is working on its first comprehensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) report. The aim is to have the report ready for publication in early 2012.

“We recognise that the true value of a company is not always contained within its financial reporting and that significant value can be derived from intangible assets such as reputation, a commitment to social well-being and the ability to innovate. We judge that the publication of a CSR report will give us and our partners a comprehensive picture of our business and when we’re asked about factors that affect us, we will have the answers at our fingertips,” says Mats Holti, Vice President, Technology & Innovations at Walki.

At the start of next year, Walki will publish its first CSR report, on the company’s social responsibility.

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The CSR report follows the guidelines issued by GRI, Global Reporting Initiative. This means that all the background information which influences Walki’s business must be collected, compiled and evaluated on the basis of GRI’s standards, including the company’s organisational structure, links to interest groups, issues relating to the workforce, energy and environmental factors and details of all its suppliers’ activities.

“This involves a huge amount of work, but it will produce valuable results in the form of transparency for our business and stakeholders, disclosed in a systematic and regular way, clearly reinforcing our commitment to sustainable business development,” says Mats Holti.

A global, network-based organisation founded by Ceres (the network for sustainable development) and UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) with members from business, public bodies and the academic world.

Maintains and develops the most widely used global guidelines for reporting on sustainable economic, environmental and social development.

Based on voluntary participation. The basic G3 guidelines are available free of charge to everyone.
The communication of the FUTURE

These little antennas can send information and open many doors. RFID technology is becoming increasingly common in automated communication. Walki is producing antennas for RFID tags using an all-new, environmentally smart technology.
When you open a car door with a remote key, borrow books from a library or swipe a travel card on public transport, you are very likely to be using RFID (radio frequency identification) systems. The products, books and tickets communicate with a reader via a tag that sends a radio signal. Patients’ armbands in hospitals use RFID and in laundries it allows huge quantities of clothes to be identified. The list goes on, because there is an almost unlimited number of applications for this technology. Walki is now making antennas for RFID tags using a completely new method of producing patterned laminates which is environmentally and technologically superior.

“Antennas were traditionally made in a wet, chemical based process. We have a new method which does not involve liquids. This means that we can use sustainable materials such as paper,” says Tuomo Wall, Vice President Sales & Marketing, Technical Products. The manufacturing process also uses aluminium, which can be directly recycled, because it has not been contaminated with chemicals. This leaves the antenna itself free from chemicals, providing a clean and easy-to-handle material for converters.

“We produce a highly accurate, very small pattern for antennas and our production method is extremely flexible. From a customer perspective, this means accurate and repeatable production runs, including the possibility to further shrink the size of the microchip,” says Sami Liponkoski, Global Product Manager for Walki’s patterned laminates venture.

THE METHOD of making patterned laminates can also be used for other products, but Walki is starting with RFID. It is mainly producing antennas for passive tags (without their own energy supply) which send data at an ultra-high frequency and have the longest range. However, Walki is also focusing on high frequency antennas. The motivation behind the RFID venture includes both Walki’s new process and the market prospects.

“Currently about two billion passive tags are produced annually and we have so far only seen a fraction of the possible applications,” says Wall. Passive RFID transponders are widely used in public transport. Examples of major cities which have invested in RFID are Moscow and Guangzhou. There is a long list of other RFID applications which make life easier, including passports, road tolls, smart cards and baggage handling.

“RFID brings huge benefits for airline baggage handling. When barcodes are used to identify the destination, the reader must be able to see them. With RFID, the reader does not need a direct line of sight to be able to read the tag and direct the bag to its right destination”, says Tuomo Wall.

RFID is used increasingly frequently on public transport to make paying and boarding easy.

RFID is used for reading information on tags (transponders with a memory) at a distance via radio waves. The higher the frequency, the greater the range of the transmission.

Passive tags do not have their own energy supply, but use energy from the reader to send their response. Active tags have their own energy supply and can communicate over a longer distance.

Common applications for RFID include bus tickets, identifying library books, following up deliveries and different forms of tracking and tracing, for instance tracing animals.

“RFID is ideal for baggage handling, because the tag does not need a direct line of sight with the reader.”

“A BRAND NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR RFID

You probably come across RFID systems every day without necessarily realising it. Walki is now moving into this growing industry with its own sustainable technology.
The market for disposable cups has undergone major changes. Because of their mobility, these cups are the ideal place for brand displays. They are often carried about in the hands of the people who are drinking. Therefore, printability is an important feature. This, and the fact that the cups must hold hot or cold drinks, means that the material has to meet the high demands of the cup making process and the brand image that the cup must carry.

“The cup material must be able to withstand the high speed of our machines. It must be suited for liquids and easy to print. Finding the right supplier isn’t always easy. This is why the new material from Walki and Korsnäs is so interesting.”

So says David Schisler, Chairman of the board of management of French manufacturer CEE Schisler. The new material he is referring to was developed as part of a joint project by Korsnäs and Walki.

“End users and offer the cup market something new,” explains David Ingham, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Consumer Board at Walki. The new material, called Walki® Pack Cup (based on Korsnäs Cup), was produced to be lighter in weight than competitive materials at any given thickness, whilst still offering excellent stiffness, so the cups made from the grade will hold cups that feel good in the hand.

“The benefit for our customers is that less material is used in each cup, so more cups can be made from each tonne of material. This also results in a smaller carbon footprint for the product,” says Marie Barge, Sales Manager at Walki.

The new grade also has a consistently smooth surface across the whole range of thicknesses offering excellent printability, enabling a family of cups of different sizes to be printed with the same result across the whole range of cup sizes.

“Nowadays disposable cups come in all sizes from one litre for cold drinks to small espresso cups,” says Marie Barge.

“Maximum performance from minimum raw materials. Walki’s new cup material is lightweight in relation to its thickness, which allows more cups to be produced from each tonne of material. Paper-based, PE-coated disposable cups are fully recyclable.”

THE CULTURE of coffee drinking is changing in many countries and Schisler’s home market in France offers a good example. Here café owners now want to sell coffee in disposable cups, following a smoking ban. This is because customers go outside to smoke with their china cups and the cups are never seen again.

“Cups for hot drinks have become particularly popular and there are clear signs that disposable cups of various kinds have a bright future in England.”

“Nowadays we are talking about hot and cold drinks, customers with very specific requirements, large variations in the size of the cups and an endless list of places where they are used. They are found in cafés and fast food restaurants, on trains, in airports, at theme parks, in cinemas and so on. It goes without saying that the print quality is a decisive factor,” says David Schisler.

“Nowadays, disposable cups come in all sizes from one litre for cold drinks to small espresso cups.”

Marie Barge, Sales Manager at Walki

A new disposable cup has been developed which is made of material from Korsnäs and Walki. The cup is lightweight, easy to print and offers excellent stiffness.

CEE SCHISLER is a family company founded in 1950 by David Schisler’s grandfather. It specialises in packaging for retail products and its most important product is paper bags, with disposable cups next on the list. The food industry is its main customer group. The raw material is the key feature of a successful product, but the service provided by the supplier is also important.

“We’ve now been using Walki’s and Korsnäs’ material for some time and we’re very satisfied with both the material and the service. We’re particularly impressed by the printability,” says David Schisler.

In the 1980s, when CEE Schisler began making disposable cups, it was enough just to show a small logo for a soft drink brand, for example. Now the situation has changed completely.

“Nowadays we are talking about hot and cold drinks, customers with very specific requirements, large variations in the size of the cups and an endless list of places where they are used. They are found in cafés and fast food restaurants, on trains, in airports, at theme parks, in cinemas and so on. It goes without saying that the print quality is a decisive factor,” says David Schisler.

The culture of coffee drinking is changing in many countries and Schisler’s home market in France offers a good example. Here café owners now want to sell coffee in disposable cups, following a smoking ban. This is because customers go outside to smoke with their china cups and the cups are never seen again.

“Cups for hot drinks have become particularly popular and there are clear signs that disposable cups of various kinds have a bright future in England.”

“There has been an explosion in coffee drinking in England and consumption of coffee has now overtaken that of tea in the world’s leading tea-drinking country,” says David Schisler.
**NEW LEAN WORKING METHODS FOR WALKI**

**INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, MORE STREAMLINED PROCESSES, IMPROVED SAFETY, LESS WASTE OF ALL KINDS AND GREATER FLEXIBILITY ARE JUST SOME OF THE GOALS OF THE WALKI GROUP’S NEW LEAN-BASED OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME.**

“Development often involves organising details and getting rid of non-essentials. It’s hard to develop your business if your work environment is always messy. In some cases you need to standardise your processes so that everything flows smoothly.”

“The fact that the Lean-programme is being supported from the very top management is an advantage, because the resources needed for the development work will actually be made available,” says Tomi Järvinen, Lean Engineer at Walki, responsible for implementing Walki Operational Excellence, which is still at the outline stage.

The commonly held, simplistic view of Lean-management is that it means learning to keep your desk tidy. Tomi Järvinen corrects that part of it: “It is about keeping places tidy, not because someone is going to come and inspect them, but because it allows you to improve your own efficiency and it is easier to observe if processes are working or not.”

“‘One objective of focusing on our own business is to be able to offer our customers greater flexibility,’” says Graham Hogben.

“Development often involves organising details and getting rid of non-essentials. It’s hard to develop your business if your work environment is always messy. In some cases you need to standardise your processes so that everything flows smoothly.”

“Every member of a football team must use the same tactics for the team to win the games. The same applies to a company which aims to become the most customer-focused business,” says Tomi Järvinen.

“It is important that Walki Operational Excellence makes use of all the hidden knowledge within the company.”

“The difficulties that employees face are often symptoms of larger structural problems. By listening to people throughout the business and putting together all the details, we can get a picture of the bigger problem,” explains Tomi Järvinen.

“Customers’ needs are of central importance, but it is also essential to develop the cooperation with suppliers. They must become more flexible too, so that all the wheels turn at top speed,” says Tomi Järvinen.

The ongoing development work does not have a specific end date. “It is a continuing process which runs alongside our everyday work. The main challenge is to introduce the new way of thinking at all levels of the organisation, so that it becomes a normal part of everyday working,” explains Tomi Järvinen.

A material from Walki has found an end-use of a rather unusual nature. As part of the art project Drift 2010, German artist Frank Bölter created boats from the material, called Walki®Pack Foil Plus.

Drift is a project led by the non-profit organisation Illuminale Productions, in which artists are given the opportunity to showcase their work in unexpected places where the general public can easily interact with the art. It is with this in mind that Frank Bölter set up his paper boat folding operation in central London, where he was helped by passers-by.

Frank Bölter has dubbed his project To The World’s End. And as the name suggests, his boats need to be durable - the boat used in his maiden voyage on the Thames definitely proved to be up to the task. But then again, the boat paper is coated with a material intended to protect sensitive products, primarily foods, against moisture, gas, grease and light.

**What’s up in Sweden, Lars Norén?**

Lars Norén is MD of Walki Converflex in Sweden, which prints reel wrappers and packaging for the food industry.

“Congratulations on your excellent accident record in 2010. There were no accidents at all involving sick leave. How do you prevent accidents at work?

We have processes which require staff to inspect raw materials. The answer is to identify potential risks and eliminate them. We have an active communication policy and talk with our employees individually. This approach gives us the atmosphere it is good.

“The staff is doing well but how about the business?”

After the paper industry restructuring and some of our large customers cut down their production, we also reorganised part of our production. We re-structured our production processes which are not optimal but suitable for the printing process. It is very challenging in technical terms, but we have started learning it and how to print it in a way that is right. Trouble is still, of course, for our customers, even on short print runs. The food industry is not as sensitive to downturns in the economy, so we have come through the recession in a strong position.

“Converflex is based in Ornsköldsvik on the north-west coast of Sweden. What do visitors from the south-east coast see when they come?"

Definitely the winter and the snow, but also the fact that we have the wilderness right on our doorstep. Definitely the winter and the snow, but also the fact that we have the wilderness right on our doorstep.

“Frank Bölter creates paper boats on a true scale. The boat paper is coated with a material intended to protect sensitive products, primarily foods, against moisture, gas, grease and light.

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**To the world’s end in Walki’s paper boat**

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During the week, he is a business manager for Walki’s barrier board products in the German town of Steinfurt, where packaging material for frozen food, among other things, is manufactured.

“I have worked in the same place since 1988, when I finished my degree in business economics. Of course my responsibilities have increased over the years and the products are much more advanced now than when I first started,” says Matthias Zimmermann.

He has lived in Münster all his life and commutes the 30 km to Walki’s plant in Steinfurt every day.

“Münster is a lovely town. People often say it’s one of Germany’s most beautiful towns and it has a large university with 50,000 students. I was born and grew up here and, as it’s relatively close to my job, I didn’t see any reason to move.”

However, that doesn’t mean that Matthias Zimmermann is not keen to travel. With Münster as his base, he has seen large parts of Germany from the air at the controls of different two-seater light sport aircraft (LSA).

“The longest trip I’ve taken so far was from Münster to Berlin, then up to the Baltic and back to Münster via Hamburg.”

His hobby began in 2004 when his brother obtained a licence for light sport aircraft and encouraged Matthias to have a try.

“After two flights with an instructor, I was hooked. I got my licence and have been flying regularly ever since.”

The feeling of controlling a plane high up in the air is hard to describe.

“For me it’s the best way to relax. Of course, you have to concentrate totally on what you are doing, but you forget all about your job and other everyday things.”

He often makes weekend trips to the islands off the northern coast of Germany. His wife and his two sons, aged 11 and 13, take it in turns to go with him.

“The downside of LSAs is that I can only take one passenger with me, which means that we can’t go away as a family.”

On the other hand, LSAs use relatively little fuel: only 13–15 litres per hour compared with 40–60 litres per hour for a four-seater Cessna, for example.

“It’s not a cheap hobby, but it’s not as expensive as people think. A pilot’s licence costs 4,000 euros and hiring a plane from the flying club is 60 euros per flying hour. The cost is much the same as playing golf,” says Matthias Zimmermann.

There are not many hobbies which require such careful preparation as flying.

“I have to check the weather forecasts, buy charts of the entire route and find out about landmarks that will make navigating easier. I don’t use an autopilot. Instead I navigate using visible landmarks, which is why it’s important that the weather is clear.”

He dreams of being at the controls for two flights:

“One is lake-hopping in Finland. You can hire a plane with floats and fly from one lake to the next. My other dream flight is to go over the Alps from Germany to Italy,” says Zimmermann.

He’ll get there, but he just needs to make the right preparations.

Matthias Zimmermann relaxes when he is up in the air. He has been a keen pilot since 2004 and flies a two-seater plane, often taking weekend trips to the German islands in the North Sea.

Matthias Zimmermann
Ready for take-off. Since Matthias Zimmermann got his pilot’s licence in 2004 he has been regularly enjoying Germany from a bird’s perspective.

LIGHT SPORT AIRCRAFT
Seats: 1–2
Max. gross weight: 600 kg
Speed: 180–300 km/h
Range: 700–1,200 km

3 QUESTIONS
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MODEL OF PLANE?
CT Supralight Advanced from Flight Design.

WHO WOULD YOU TAKE WITH YOU TO A DESERT ISLAND?
My family, of course.

WHAT DO YOU ALWAYS TAKE WITH YOU ON BUSINESS TRIPS?
My laptop and the latest flying magazine.
The company where cool ideas live

Walki Technical Products

The Technical Products team at Walki specialises in creating innovative material combinations that solve real life business problems in a unique and rewarding way. Our expertise has helped our customers’ business grow in a huge range of different areas. From insulation facings and construction applications to envelope papers and flexible packaging, through to technical backing papers for flooring, siliconizing and the foam industry. The list goes on.

To check out other cool ideas made real, go to www.walki.com